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REMARKS

In paragraph 2 of the Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Gillihan et al.* (US 6,842,262).

In paragraph 5 of the Action, claims 2-5 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gillihan et al.* (US 6,842,262) in view of *Mori* (US 7,027,179).

In paragraph 6 of the Action, claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gillihan et al.* (US 6,842,262) in view of *Mori* (US 7,027,179) further in view of *Reed et al.* (NS 7,590,996).

In paragraph 7 of the Action, claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gillihan et al.* (US 6,842,262) in view of *Mori* (US 7,027,179) further in view of *Hyakutake et al.* (US 7,142,690).

In paragraph 8 of the Action, claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mori* (US 7,027,179) in view of *Lapstun et al.* (US 6,728,000).

In paragraph 9 of the Action, claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mori* (US 7,027,179) in view of *Lapstun et al.* (US 6,728,000) further in view of *Hernandez* (US 6,650,428).

In paragraph 10 of the Action, claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mori* (US 7,027,179) in view of *Lapstun et al.* (US 6,728,000) further in view of *Gillihan et al.* (US 6,842,262).

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In paragraph 11 of the Action, claims 12, 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Gillihan et al.* (US 6,842,262) in view of *Davidson et al.* (US 6,952,485).

In paragraph 12 of the Action, claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gillihan et al.* (US 6,842,262) in view of *Davidson et al.* (US 6,952,485) further in view of *Hernandez* (US 6,650,428).

In paragraph 13 of the Action, claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gillihan et al.* (US 6,842,262) in view of *Davidson et al.* (US 6,952,485) further in view of *Stefik et al.* (US 2001/00085557).

In view of the rejections, claims 1, 9, and 12 have been amended to clarify the features of the invention and include an additional limitation. Claims 11 and 14 have been amended to correct clerical errors. New dependent claims 17 to 19 have been filed to capture proper scope of the invention.

The applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and request reconsideration. With the amendments, all of pending claims 1 to 16, as well as new claims 17 to 19, are not anticipated by or unpatentable over the cited references for the reasons explained below.

As recited in amended claim 1, an image forming apparatus comprises a data collecting section to reduce data of a plurality of pages and create collected data collected in one single medium; a specific information creating section to create specific information applied to the one single medium; and a data editing

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section to overlap the specific information with the collected data so that the specific information covers at least two of the pages.

In particular, the image forming apparatus of the invention recited in amended claim 1 includes the data editing section to overlap the specific information with the collected data, so that the specific information covers at least two of the pages. Accordingly, even when a plurality of the pages is printed on one sheet, it is possible to print the specific information without reduction, thereby making it possible to easily identify the specific information.

Gillihan et al. has disclosed an iconic printer interface providing document composition features. According to *Gillihan et al.*, thumbnail images 38 of the individual logical pages of a multi-page electronic document are displayed in the user interface window. The user can select a page or group of pages within the document using the mouse pointer 34 and appropriate keyboard or mouse button commands. When a page or group of pages is selected 40, a menu 42 and pop-up submenus appear, listing formatting changes that can be applied to the selected page, see FIG. 5. Exemplary options might include the properties of the paper for the printed output, choosing between for example, plain, letterhead or colored paper or paper of alternate sizes. Duplex (two-sided) printing might be selected for some pages of the document and simplex (one-sided) printing for the remainder of the document. Image editing operations, such as mirroring an image, rotation, negation of image and zoom, are examples of special printing operations which are useful in document assembly and might be accessed from the printing interface and applied to selected pages. In addition, the interface could provide for multiple copies of selected pages, n-up printing, guttering, pages which are not

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printed, insertion of blank pages into the printed output or overlaying of a user specified watermark on selected pages within the document. (col. 4, lines 30 to 50).

In *Gillihan et al.*, it is simply mentioned that a user specified watermark may be overlaid on selected pages within the document.

In the invention recited in claim 1, the image forming apparatus includes the data editing section to overlap the specific information with the collected data, so that the specific information covers at least two of the pages. Accordingly, even when a plurality of the pages is printed on one sheet, it is possible to print the specific information without reduction, thereby making it possible to easily identify the specific information.

In *Gillihan et al.*, there is no disclosure or suggestion regarding the data editing section to overlap the specific information with the collected data, so that the specific information covers at least two of the pages. Therefore, *Gillihan et al.* does not disclose nor suggest all of the features of the invention recited in claim 1. Accordingly, the invention recited in amended claim 1 is not anticipated by *Gillihan et al.*

As recited in amended claim 9, an image forming apparatus comprises an image creating section to create image data of a plurality of pages; a specific information creating section to create specific information overlapped with the image data so that the specific information covers at least two of the pages; a specific information inverting section to invert the specific information; and a data transmitting section to output the specific

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information inverted in the specific information inverting section and the image data.

In particular, the image forming apparatus of the invention recited in amended claim 9 includes the specific information creating section to create the specific information overlapped with the image data, so that the specific information covers at least two of the pages. Accordingly, even when a plurality of the pages is printed on one sheet, it is possible to print the specific information without reduction, thereby making it possible to easily identify the specific information.

Mori has disclosed a data generating device capable of appending different watermarks to corresponding pages. According to *Mori*, the image information setting program 6 is used for setting various information relating to printing, and includes a print setting program, a sheet setting program, a watermark setting program, a list display program, and the like. The print setting program is for setting basic printing conditions, such as printing quality, color adjustment, half-tone selection, and the like. The sheet setting program is for selecting a size and an orientation of a recording sheet to be used. The watermark setting program is for setting watermarks as marks. A watermark is a predetermined image including letters and/or characters formed over an original image on a recording sheet. The list display program is for displaying a watermark selection list 14 (described later) and the like. (col. 4, lines 21 to 33)

In *Mori*, it is simply mentioned that a watermark as a predetermined image including letters and/or characters may be formed over an original image on a recording sheet.

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In the rejection of claim 9 in the Action, the examiner asserted stating that the specific information creating section of the invention recited in amended claim 9 corresponds to the watermark setting program in *Mori*.

In the image forming apparatus of the invention recited in amended claim 9, however, the specific information creating section creates the specific information overlapped with the image data, so that the specific information covers at least two of the pages. Accordingly, even when a plurality of the pages is printed on one sheet, it is possible to print the specific information without reduction, thereby making it possible to easily identify the specific information.

Accordingly, the specific information creating section of the invention is not equivalent to the watermark setting program in *Mori* as the examiner asserted. In *Mori*, there is no disclosure or suggestion regarding the specific information creating section to create the specific information overlapped with the image data, so that the specific information covers at least two of the pages. Therefore, *Mori* is not a proper reference for the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

As recited in amended claim 12, an image forming apparatus comprises an image creating section to create image data of a plurality of pages from document data; a document information extracting section to extract document information from the document data; a specific information creating section to create specific information from the document information extracted by the document information extracting section, the specific information being overlapped with the image data so that the specific information covers at least two of the pages; and a data

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transmitting section to output the specific information and the image data.

In particular, the image forming apparatus of the invention recited in amended claim 12 includes the specific information creating section to create the specific information overlapped with the image data, so that the specific information covers at least two of the pages. Accordingly, even when a plurality of the pages is printed on one sheet, it is possible to print the specific information without reduction, thereby making it possible to easily identify the specific information.

As explained above, in *Gillihan et al.*, it is simply mentioned that a user specified watermark may be overlaid on selected pages within the document.

In *Gillihan et al.*, there is no disclosure or suggestion regarding the specific information creating section to create the specific information overlapped with the image data, so that the specific information covers at least two of the pages. Therefore, *Gillihan et al.* does not disclose nor suggest all of the features of the invention recited in claim 12. Accordingly, the invention recited in amended claim 12 is not anticipated by *Gillihan et al.*

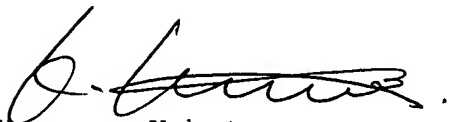
As explained above, the cited references do not disclose nor suggest all the features of the invention recited in claims 1, 9 and 12. Therefore, the invention recited in claims 1, 9 and 12 is not anticipated by or unpatentable over the cited references.

The applicant has requested one-month extension of time. The credit card payment form in the amount of \$120 has been attached herewith.

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Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Kubotera', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kazunao Kubotera

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